

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

)	
Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules)	WT Docket No. 12-283
Governing Qualifying Examination Systems)	
And Other Matters)	
)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the)	RM-11629
Commission's Amateur Service Rules to)	
Give Permanent Credit for Examination)	
Elements Passed)	
)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's)	RM-11625
Rules to Facilitate Use in the Amateur Radio)	
Service of Single Slot Time Division)	
Multiple Access Telephony and Data)	
Emissions)	
)	
Request for Temporary Waiver)	
)	
Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules)	WT Docket No. 09-209
Governing Vanity and Club Station Call)	
Signs)	

For Commission consideration:

REPLY Comments of W5YI-VEC

The W5YI –VEC, founded by Fred O. Maia, W5YI, in 1984, is the second largest of the 14 FCC appointed Volunteer Examination Coordinator Organizations in the United States, shadowed only by the ARRL-VEC. These reply comments are timely

filed in the matter above and are respectfully submitted for Commission consideration.

1. The W5YI-VEC coordinates and provides amateur license examination services through over 300 examination teams across the United States and U.S. possessions. We also have exam teams in several foreign countries providing examination services to US citizens and US Military personnel wishing to be licensed the Amateur Service. We provide new and upgrade examination services to thousands of applicants per month for all classes of amateur licenses and provide other VEC licensing services such as address changes, name changes and license renewals and modifications.

General Comments on WT docket 12-283

This VEC does not support several of the actions as proposed by the original Anchorage VEC petition and hereby submit Reply Comments on Comments filed by the ARRL-VEC, and others commenting on the proposed action.

Reduction of the number of Volunteer Examiners present at examination sessions:

The W5YI-VEC agrees with the ARRL comments that the VEC System, as established, with 3 attending VEs continues to work remarkably well and that it provides adequate oversight in detecting instances of examination fraud or irregularities. Any proposal of FCC rule changes to reduce the number of attending and/or certifying Volunteer Examiners needs to be documented with supporting evidence that the current system does not work effectively a reduced number of VEs

would be of substantial service benefit and in the general best interest of existing and potential licensees in the amateur radio service. The mere reduction in the number of required volunteer examiners from 3 to 2, does not provide for more or better access to examinations sessions as proposed by several comments. A reduction from 2-3 VEs does not increase the potential to conduct more examinations on any given date or location of an examination session, in fact it jeopardizes the ability of the examiners in attendance to insure integrity of the examination oversight process. We support leaving the existing 3 minimum required volunteer exam team system in place until such time there is supporting evidence that a reduction would not deduce the integrity and perceived integrity of the process and VEC Program.

Grace Period for Renewal of Licenses

As the ARRL-VEC and many other comments point out, the existing term of an amateur radio license of 10 years, plus a two year grace period , offer more than adequate time in which the licensee can renew the license easily and quickly through various means; (1) electronic submission via the Internet to the FCC using the Universal License System, or to various VEC organizations, (2) submission by USPS mail or in person at an examination session, to any of the 14 VECs across the country using the NCVEC 605 Application Form, which allows the applicant to renew the license or change their mailing address, as required by Section 97.23 of Part 97 Rules and Regulation. This VEC application system continues to function flawlessly and provides easy means and access to apply for renewal of the amateur license and provides the FCC with updated address information for the licensee on a timely basis.

Many of the VECs across the country provide ways and means for licensees to submit applications for renewal and address changes electronically using the Internet. The W5YI-VEC as well as the ARRL-VEC provides amateur licensees a notice of timely renewal by mail as a service. The only licensees that do not receive a renewal notice are those that fail to keep their mailing address up to date in the FCC ULS database. Statistically on a monthly basis, the number of licensees that fail to update their address with the FCC or the postal service is less than 5% of the total number of license records mailed, based on small number of returned mail pieces, with no forwarding order by the USPS. We also find that statistically, the number of licensees that file renewal applications during the 2 year grace period is less than 1% annually of all license records eligible for renewal annually, and those did not receive renewal notices by mail due to failure to comply with the FCC 97.23 mailing address requirement.

According to other statistical records kept, we receive only a mere handful (less than 50) of requests annually to renew a license that has already been cancelled by the FCC for non-renewal beyond the grace period. Therefore we submit that reducing the grace period from 2 years to 180 days would have no effective impact on the renewal process as it currently exists, except to allow a license to be renewed earlier than the existing rules allow and cause more licensees to miss the renewal window causing more license to be cancelled for failure to renew. Neither result has a positive impact on the licensee or serves in the best interest of the amateur community.

We do not support the idea of basically granting lifetime element credit for those licensees that failed to renew their license for what ever reason. We believe that that

applicants applying to become licensed, relicensed or upgrading an existing license become better qualified operators with knowledge and understanding of current day amateur rules and regulations, frequency and operating privileges and up to date on current equipment and technology than those that left the hobby decades ago and want an easy path back into the hobby without study of the fore-mentioned resources found through re-examination. We support the idea that FCC amateur radio operator and station license have always been an earned privileges demonstrated through examination on technical expertise, rules and technology.

Respectfully submitted by:

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